

NATIONAL RECORDER.

"Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes."

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BURNING A SLAVE.

Augusta, (Geo.) Jan. 22.

"On Saturday evening last, at about 8 o'clock, Mr. Thomas Hancock, of Edgefield district, in South Carolina, who lived about 10 miles from this place, was shot through the head as he was preparing for bed, and instantly killed. From circumstances which have since been disclosed, it appears that this bloody deed was contrived and executed by two negro fellows, belonging to the deceased, one of whom made a free and voluntary confession of the particulars.

"The court and jury, satisfied of the guilt of the offenders, condemned them both to be executed—Sam to be burnt and Ephraim to be hung; which sentences are to be carried into effect on Friday next, near the place where the murder was committed."

When we read this sentence, we had not the least belief that it would be carried into execution. Considering the law under which it was pronounced as a relic of ancient barbarism, which had been suffered through negligence to remain on the statute book, we supposed that it would be avoided in some manner; but not having thought of the possibility of the commission of such an outrage upon humanity, did not feel sufficiently interested to form any definite opinion on the subject, till we were struck with horror at the sight of the following narrative.

From the Augusta (Geo.) Chronicle, Feb. 1.

"On Friday last, two negro men, named Ephraim and Sam, were executed in conformity to their sentence, for the murder of their master, Mr. Thomas Hancock, of Edgefield district, S. C. Sam was burnt and Ephraim hung, and his head severed from his body and publicly exposed. The circumstances attending the crime for which these miserable beings have suffered, were of a nature so aggravated, as imperiously demanded the terrible punishment which has been inflicted upon them.

"The burning of malefactors is a punishment only resorted to when absolute necessity demands a signal example. It must be a horrid and appalling sight to see a human being consigned to the flames. Let even fancy picture the scene; the pile—the stake—the victim; and the mind sickens, and sinks under the oppression of its own feelings—what then must be the dread reality! From some of the spectators we learn, that it was a scene which transfixed in breathless horror almost every one who witnessed it. As the flames approached him, the piercing shrieks of the unfortunate victim struck upon the heart with a fearful, painful vibration;

but when the devouring element seized upon his body, all was hushed—yet the cry of agony still thrilled in the ear, and an involuntary and sympathetic shudder ran through the crowd. We hope that this awful dispensation of justice may be attended with such salutary effects as to forever preclude the necessity of its repetition."

Such an exhibition of diabolical cruelty almost makes us ashamed of our country. "Absolute necessity" is the apology for this crime. If this act were believed to be necessary to strike terror into the hearts of those whose hands would otherwise vindicate their claims to humanity, what must we think of the men who, with such awful experience in their own states, endeavour to fasten so dreadful a necessity upon others? How deeply should we deplore and execrate an evil which can thus pervert the understanding, and so far as it is itself concerned, close all the avenues of humanity.

It is the duty of every man placed in a public station by those who with consistency can boast of their attachment to freedom, to exert his whole heart and mind to efface the sin from the land. Let the members of Congress from free states remember, that for their dereliction from the path of duty, no prejudice of education can be urged in excuse; and let them fear, when they are about to sanction the extension of this destroying pestilence, that their success may draw down upon them the lasting curses of an injured people.

Communications.

For the National Recorder.

PAUPERISM AND POOR LAWS.

Pauperism is a disease unknown in poor and virtuous communities. It is the offspring of luxury, and seems to arise out of the complicated arrangements of wealthy nations. Poverty, and the fear of poverty, are the sources of many virtues; and should always be left to their own energies and capacities; but pauperism is a deadly cancer in the political body, which spreads from one limb to another, and can only be cured by altering the tone of the whole system. Since experience shows, that it prevails in proportion to the prevalence of luxury, the division of labour and the accumulation of capital in the hands of a few;

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it may naturally be supposed to have its cause in these. Among its immediate causes, are the vices of the poor, the sudden changes of trade and commerce, and (in some countries) the lowness of wages. Perhaps it could be shown, that vice is always propagated downwards in communities. It is in our nature to imitate the persons to whom we are accustomed to look up, and it is a well attested fact, that in those countries where the upper classes are frugal and virtuous, the lower are equally remarkable for simplicity and independence. But when those classes are dissipated and extravagant, these diseases gradually infect the whole mass around. For instance, how many trades are dependent upon the employment given by the fashionable world in the course of a winter's dissipation.—The liveried servants, the artificers of a thousand articles of gaudy and useless profusion. All these people live in a tainted atmosphere, they learn the very worst traits of the circles to which they minister—the extravagance, the idleness, and too often the profligacy and the disregard of principle, which the devotees of fashion are so apt to think becoming. They spread these vices in their turn to a sphere still lower, and with an additional degree of what is coarse and disgusting. Every person conversant with the pauperism of a large city can testify how much of it is owing to causes of this kind—to vices which would have never been so prevalent, had they not come down to the lowest ranks with the sanction of the practice of the upper—to drunkenness, which became a habit in the man, because the boy thought it was manly to call for his glass—to gambling, which became inveterate, because it was gentlemanly to play at cards—or to extravagance, which was induced, because nobody would be seen in a coarse or a homespun dress. It is in this way that many if not all the moral diseases of society are propagated, and the cure lies in the power of that class from which the evil sprung. It were to be wished that the wealthy part of society could be awakened to a proper sense of this subject, and made to see how heavy a penalty they pay in the shape of a poor tax for their luxuries and vicious indulgences. The second cause of pauperism, which I have enumerated, is the sudden changes of trade and commerce, and as this cannot be prevented, we must palliate its evils when it occurs, by wholesome and well applied relief. The third cause arises from the great accumulation of capital, which induces a consequent

lowness of wages, and, by the minute division of labour which it causes, renders the labouring class dependent upon, and in fact slaves to, their wealthy masters. This does not yet exist to any extent in this country; but the history of England is worth volumes on the subject. There is in fact no greater cause of pauperism than these last mentioned. The division of labour and labour-saving machinery, have robbed the workman of Birmingham and Manchester of his independence as a man, of his attachment to the soil and the home which gave him birth, and of his most valuable and sterling qualities. The experience of the last twenty years has shown the manufacturing population of England to be a moving and fluctuating mass, where no vegetation quickens, which the dews of heaven do not fertilize, the abode of savage beasts and noxious reptiles, and ever ready to lay waste and overwhelm in the hurricane violence of its career, the fairest and the choicest works of creation.

Many of the vices of the poor in our cities, I mean those which arise from imitation of the higher classes, can only be effectually cured by strengthening the morality and reducing the extravagances of those from whom they take the contagion. All other means will, if my theory be correct, stop short of a radical cure.

Another cause of the improvidence of the poor, and which is, perhaps, to be placed above all that I have enumerated, is their ignorance. The most effectual remedy for pauperism would be the universal instruction of the poor, and a reformation in the habits of the rich. Neither without the other would extirpate the evil.

These medicaments, however, are slow in their operation, and one of them, at least, most improbable to be tried. The incubus of pauperism has fastened itself upon us, and it behoves us to seek more speedy and attainable relief. To ascertain what this may be, let us examine what the poor laws are, and go back to first principles. Our system is perhaps the worst that could be contrived. Overseers are chosen for one year, and the city and liberties are divided into districts among them. Every resident person who applies for relief, whether from inability or unwillingness to work, is supported; that is, receives half a dollar a week during the severe weather. An order from any one of the overseers will admit into the almshouse any person that has no home, or is sick, or unable to take care of himself. They are kept here during their sickness, or while the cold

weather continues; the managers of the almshouse have no power further than to inflict a temporary confinement for misbehaviour; they are maintained in idleness, and can at any time demand their dismissal. A system more loose and inefficacious, more expensive and burdensome, and more calculated to increase and cherish pauperism, could hardly be contrived. *Its expenses at this moment are twelve thousand dollars per week!* This expense has become a most oppressive public burden, and some plan should be devised for checking it, whilst yet in its *infancy*; or it will amount in time to half the interest of all the real estate of this city and county, for it is continually and alarmingly increasing.

The first observation which must strike every reflecting man is, that there are not overseers enough. The districts over which they preside, are too extensive for any individual to possess that minute knowledge respecting their inhabitants which is indispensable to a proper distribution of public charity. A second is, that the overseers are continued in office for too short a time; they do not get trained to their duties and interested in their business before they are superseded; and so unpleasant is it to be the officer under a bad law, to witness abuses which one cannot redress, to be made the distributor of relief without a choice of the mode in which it shall be given, that very few are ever willing to serve a second year. The consequence is, that our overseers are generally raw hands, and the business is managed much in the same way as a shop would be, committed to the care of the apprentices. A third defect is, that relief is too cheaply and easily obtained, and this flows in some measure from the two former circumstances. The great fault in our poor-law, however, is, that there is no coercive power conferred by it. I hope I shall not be thought a political heretic in what I am about to say; for I know how tremblingly alive the public mind of this country is on the subject of personal rights. The perfect equality of all our citizens in the eye of the constitution is its most beautiful trait, and is founded in the nature of things. In a vigorous community, every individual must be supposed to have ordinary understanding and to be capable of self-preservation, and therefore to have an interest in the well administration of government, and in the advancement of the common welfare; and hence derives the right to do and live as he pleases within the rule of law. The cases of sickness or decrepitude do not form exceptions to this rule,

for we are bound by our common humanity to administer to them; they are calamities incident to all, and therefore fairly lay claim to assistance from the common fund. But when in the progress of society, and from the increase of luxury, a new class of people has arisen, that gains a livelihood in idleness, by appealing to the pity of the citizens; a class, which is strictly a parasitic plant, and draws its nourishment and increase from the veins of the body on which it has taken root, a new order of things may be fairly said to have arisen. This state may be tolerated for a while, but if it becomes not merely burdensome but dangerous and oppressive, the sound part of society owes it to its own prosperity and safety, and is called upon by all the purposes for which government is instituted, to shake off the incubus. If the previously existing laws, calculated for a state of real equality, did not confer the power, it has the right and ought to assume to itself that power. It should inquire what are the best and most effective remedies for pauperism, and should enforce them. Our almshouse should be made in reality a house of employment. We now maintain the poor there in idleness. It would be better to keep them at work even at a considerable loss to the public; for they might then acquire or retain habits of industry, which they are *now* certain of losing. The managers should have the power of making those who came in from want of employment, from sickness or inability to work induced by any bad or vicious habit, repay, by working at stated wages when cured, the expenses which the public had incurred in taking care of them. They should have the power of preventing street begging. Every farthing of relief bestowed upon a pauper, (except in extreme cases of sickness or old age) should be given as the price of labour. The paupers would thus find it as hard to beg as to work, and there would be some certainty that none applied from the love of idleness. This system is one involving some difficulties; but it is confidently believed that it is the only one which will meet and check the evil. The most difficult part perhaps is in finding employment; but in Holland and many other countries, this has been fully obviated, and could no doubt be so here.

It is an invidious task to find fault with public and private charities; but if the foregoing observations are correct, it is easily seen, that in a large city like this, they are unsound on political principles,

and do but foment the evil of pauperism. The charity of our fellow citizens keeps pace with and even outruns the demands upon it. Philadelphia is a great mart of alms, and invites customers to her bounties from all the neighbouring states. Perhaps this is an attendant and unavoidable state of things, under our present laws; but it is one which loudly calls for amendment. If half the money which is lavished in temporary expedients for the relief of our paupers, were distributed from the public purse, and with an uniform system, in finding them in employment and in educating their children; if half the pains exerted in finding objects to assist, were taken to recommend habits of frugality and saving, wholesome and economical food, and decent and moral conduct, our city would soon exhibit a different aspect, and our poor-tax be greatly diminished. Let me add, that if the rich were to consider themselves as stewards of their possessions, for the improvement and benefit of their fellow creatures—were to show a laudable example of moderation in their pleasures and temperance in their sensual indulgences, the great and most powerful cause of the pauperism of large cities would be done away, and with it, the evil which it engenders. H.

For the National Recorder.

Dear H.—At your request, I have attempted a translation of Madame de Stael's lines, contained in the second number* of the National Recorder; but without any pretensions to a claim of kindred with her spirit. In the poetic path I have but feebly followed her flight, and in the labyrinth of metaphysical sentiment, even her *well spun* lines have afforded but an imperfect clue. S.

THE DANGERS OF INSENSIBILITY.

Seldom, dear girl, hearts young as yours, can know

The springs of bliss, from Sympathy that flow;
But to a breast thus vacant, time will bring
With cruel haste a self-afflicting sting:
When, on the world's wide waste, we lonely roam

Without one bosom, which might yield a home,
No heart, that hastens half its joys to share,
No kindred spirit, to divide our care,
No pulse that quickens, our return to greet,
No tearful eye, our parting glance to meet—
Back on itself the soul for shelter flies,
Its dreary void, a refuge there denies;
Self-love at last has left its native throne,
For e'en self-love could not exist alone;
And each dread hour its dread successor sends,
No balm the past, no hope the future lends.

* See vol. i. page 42.

Nor trust, dear girl, to find on life's last stage,
This source of bliss, unsought in earlier age;
Then, Friendship's cares can only keep alive,
The fervid warmth which youth's affections give.

'Tis youth's engaging faculties, that gain
Those claims to love, which old age can sustain;
Then, may the mind with mem'ry's aid review
Its pleasures past, and half their joys renew.

Record.

Sixteenth Congress.

FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.

Feb. 8.—A standing committee on the subject of roads and canals, was appointed.

Feb. 9.—The Senate proceeded to the consideration of the Maine and Missouri bill, when Mr. King, of New York, wishing to offer to the Senate his opinions on the Missouri subject, moved to postpone the bill until to-morrow; but a motion to postpone it till Friday prevailed, and it was postponed to that day accordingly.

Feb. 11.—The Senate resumed the consideration of the Maine bill, and the amendment reported thereto by the judiciary committee (adding provisions for the formation of a state government in Missouri). Mr. King, of New York, agreeably to the intimation which he gave on Wednesday, rose and addressed the Senate about two hours in support of the right and expediency of restricting the contemplated state of Missouri from permitting slavery therein; and then, on motion of Mr. Smith, the subject was postponed to Monday.

Feb. 14.—Mr. Smith, of South Carolina, rose in opposition to the right and expediency of restriction, and in reply to Mr. King, of New York, and spoke nearly three hours. Mr. Lloyd, of Maryland, followed on the same side, and also in reply to Mr. King; and spoke nearly an hour.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Feb. 8.—Mr. H. Nelson called for the consideration of the resolution which he moved yesterday, to dispense with all other business pending the question on the admission of Missouri into the union; and proceeded to support this course by some remarks on the magnitude of this question, pregnant, as he believed, with the fate of the union, and the issue of which the people, of the south and west particularly, awaited with the deepest anxiety; but, the yeas and nays being ordered, on motion of Mr. Taylor, on the question of considering the resolution, Mr. Nelson rose and withdrew the resolution, with the avowal that he would offer it on to-morrow; not wishing at present to prevent the House from resuming the immediate consideration of the Missouri question, for which it appeared prepared.

The House then again went into a committee of the whole, Mr. Baldwin in the chair, on this bill; the restrictive amendment being still under consideration. Mr. Speaker Clay rose, and addressed the committee nearly four hours, against the right and expediency of the proposed restriction.

Feb. 9.—Mr. Foot offered the following resolutions for consideration:

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in any of the territories of the United States, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted: Provided, that this shall not be construed to alter the condition or civil rights of any person now held to service or labour in said territories.

Resolved, That it be and is hereby recommended to the inhabitants of the several territories of the United States, that, for the purpose of effectually preventing the further extension of slavery, each territory, when authorized by Congress to form a constitution and state government, shall, by express provision in their constitution, prohibit involuntary servitude, or slavery, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes.

Mr. Rhea hoped the resolutions would be laid on the table until the great question now before the committee should be decided. Gentlemen were determined to discuss it, and decide upon it; and he hoped no proposition would be received to interfere with that discussion. Mr. R.'s motion to lay the resolutions on the table prevailed, and they were laid on the table accordingly.

Mr. H. Nelson called for the consideration of the resolution offered by him on Monday, in substance to suspend all other business of the House, pending the consideration of the question (now under discussion) concerning the admission of Missouri into the union with or without restriction; but the House refused, by a large majority, to consider the resolution.

The House then resumed, in committee of the whole, the consideration of the Missouri bill, and the restrictive amendment proposed thereto. Mr. Sergeant, of Pennsylvania, commenced a speech in favour of the restriction, and spoke nearly three hours; when he gave way for a motion for the committee to rise.

Feb. 10.—Mr. Sergeant occupied nearly three hours in continuation of the argument which he commenced yesterday in support of the Missouri restriction. Mr. Barbour, of Virginia, followed, and spoke more than three hours against the restriction.

Feb. 11.—The bill from the Senate to remit the duties on the statue of General Washington, executed in Europe, by the Marquis de Canova, for the state of North Carolina, was read the third time, and passed.

In committee of the whole on the Missouri bill, Mr. Gross, of New York, took the floor, and spoke nearly two hours in support of the restriction. Mr. Anderson, of Kentucky, followed, against the restriction, and occupied the floor about two hours.

Feb. 14.—The House went into committee of the whole on the Missouri bill. Mr. Cushman, of Massachusetts, took the floor, and spoke about two hours in favour of the restriction. Mr. Wood, of New York, followed, on the same side, and advocated the restriction above half an hour. Mr. Pinckney, of South Carolina, next rose, and opposed the restriction in a speech of about an hour.

PENNSYLVANIA.

SENATE.

Feb. 8.—A petition from sundry inhabitants of Philadelphia and vicinity, praying for permission to build a bridge over the Delaware, at any place not exceeding three miles north of the city, referred.—The bill for the erection of a permanent bridge over Cohocksink creek in the Northern Liberties passed, 22 to 7.

Feb. 10.—A petition was presented on the subject of incorporating the Fire Association of Philadelphia. A discussion arose on a motion to lay the petition on the table, on the ground that it contained reflections on a member of the Senate. It was rejected, 24 to 6.

The bill for relief of the sufferers by fire in Savannah, directing \$10,000 to be paid by the treasurer of the state to the mayor of Savannah, was taken up in committee of the whole, and after some remarks from Mr. Breck and Mr. Raquet, passed unanimously through all its stages.

Feb. 11.—The bill authorizing a lottery to raise money to build a Presbyterian church in Germantown, was discussed in committee of the whole. Mr. Leib and Mr. McMullin supported the bill—Mr. Breck and Mr. Frailey opposed it. The objection was to the principle of lotteries, and the bill was lost, by yeas and nays, 24 to 5.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Feb. 7.—The bill to authorize Murray, Fairman & Co. to sell certain books, &c. by lottery, was considered and objected to on the ground of the great immorality of lotteries, but nevertheless passed, 56 to 34.

Feb. 8.—Mr. Lehman reported several bills for internal improvement. The House took up the resolution instructing the committee of ways and means to bring in a bill to authorize the governor to borrow a sum not exceeding one million of dollars for internal improvement. A motion was made to change one to three millions. After some debate, the resolution as amended was passed, 61 to 26.

Feb. 9.—The committee of ways and means reported a bill authorizing the governor to borrow one million of dollars, which was made the order of the day for the 16th inst.—A resolution for the relief of the Savannah sufferers was laid on the table.—The Windmill island bridge bill was considered in committee of the whole, but not decided when the House adjourned.

The following resolution was laid on the table.

Resolved, That the judiciary committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of repealing an act entitled "an act to prevent the imprisonment of females for debt," passed the 8th day of February, 1819.

The object of this resolution is to place female debtors on the same footing with male debtors; the new insolvent law abolishes all imprisonment but not arrest for debt; and females in business, not being at present liable even to be arrested for debt, they only find it the more difficult to obtain credit.

Feb. 10.—The committee of ways and means made a report on the fiscal condition of the state, and recommending measures for its improvement.—The bridge bill was resumed, but on motion was postponed, and the House adjourned till Monday 14th, for the purpose of having the rooms cleaned.

LOAN OFFICE.

Extract from the Report of the Committee of the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania, appointed to consider of the causes of the general distress, and the best mode of alleviating it.

The only measure, therefore, that is requested by any of the petitioners, or recommended by the governor, which remains to be noticed, is the project of a *loan office*. Upon this subject, your committee will not enter into a very extensive inquiry. So far as the experience of Pennsylvania can be consulted, the project has not our approbation; nor can we, in considering the relief extended to European states in times of embarrassment, find any examples claiming imitation; it has, on the contrary been found, in similar circumstances, that schemes of this nature, instead of removing the mischief, have extended it. There is one point, upon which, your committee presume, there can be no doubt; that a measure of this kind ought not only to be just in itself, but adequate to the object. Would this measure be just in itself? it is proposed in the governor's message, to lend money upon landed security, the bare relation of which mode of appropriation proclaims its injustice: every citizen, freeholder or not, is equal in his rights, and has an equal claim, with every other citizen, to protection and relief; yet it is proposed to lend money, derived from the community at large, to those only who are already so fortunate as to be the owners of houses and farms! Against such a measure your committee protest, because it would be invidious, partial, and unjust: if relief can be given, let it be extended to the manufacturer, the merchant, and mechanic, as well as to the landholders. If any description of persons, more than another deserves relief, it is the manufacturer; he did not involve his property in the fate of the baseless fabrics of banks, but in a patriotic and laudable effort to supply the wants of his country in a perilous war, relying upon his country for support: yet it is pretended, that the owner of land is to be alone protected or relieved, that very description of persons, who ought never to have had any sort of connexion with banking. Indeed, your committee are yet to be satisfied, that the claims for relief are made by prudent landholders; they are rather inclined to the opinion, that they are made by persons, who have plunged into the whirlpool of speculation, and who have little or no land to pledge; for, if they have land to pledge or to sell, and are also prudent men, it is not credible that they can dread their creditors, since it is so obviously the interest of the creditor himself to forbear, and await the inevitable course of events, which must be prosperous.

But, here, the next question necessarily presents itself: would the institution of a loan office be adequate to the object? will any sum which the state can or ought to borrow be adequate to relieve the present distresses? Your committee could answer this question with precision, only by ascertaining the extent of the pressure; and to ascertain this extent, much more time and labour would be requisite, than is in the power of the legislature timely to bestow: the probable weight of the pressure may, however, be conjectured from the immense

amount of capital and labour suspended; from the fall in all sorts of produce and property; and from the extent of credit that has been given by individuals, associations, and banks: the weight, it is believed, is so great, that the means of this commonwealth are not adequate to its support. Besides the murmurs which would be excited by partial distributions, it is to be feared, that in a very few cases a permanent good would be afforded; for, unless ample redress could be given to each applicant, a private creditor would still be able to bring the estate of his debtor to sale, and the commonwealth could thus be only making a partial payment to creditors, leaving the debtors still destitute. It is also to be apprehended, that the extension of a partial relief, without rendering essential service to the community at large, which alone ought to be the aim of the legislature, would continue many of the evils of a fictitious capital; individuals now confident, that they must rely upon character and industry alone, would be buoyed up with a new hope; they would not at once resort to economy; but adhering to habits long cherished, would console themselves with the reflection, that sufficient would be the day for the evil thereof.

Nor can your committee fail to anticipate the results of such an institution in other respects. Relief is not solicited by persons who have suffered by a calamity, which prudence could not have avoided, or which prudence may not now remove. A loan is not asked by individuals, who contemplate the repair of machinery, the improvement of real estate, or any other increase of private or public capital. Those who ask the commonwealth to imitate their example, and plunge into debt, are entangled in the meshes of the banks; so that, in effect it is to preserve the existence of those pernicious institutions, that the interference of the legislature is demanded. Has not the state had abundant experience in relation to its debtors? Has it not now claims against individuals, to the amount of millions, which it has in vain endeavoured to collect? Is not the state compelled to borrow, even to pay the members of the legislature, whilst those claims remain unsatisfied? Has not the state loaned money to individuals, and at last been induced by importunity to liquidate the debt by the legislative sponge? When will the day of payment arrive should the money be lent—or, when arrived, will not the debtors interfere at elections, cover the tables of the general assembly with petitions, pressing for an extension? And will not one extension second another, until the hope of payment shall be extinct? Will not any attempt to collect in a compulsory way, be styled cruelty and oppression; until, tired out, the legislature shall be glad to purchase a release from solicitation by an oblivion of the past?

It is also worthy of remark, that should money be thus scattered, the means of promoting the general welfare by improvements of the interior, would be lost; roads, canals or bridges partly made, would remain monuments of our folly; whilst such as are in contemplation would continue to be mere visions. The funds thus appropriated, without adding to capital, would increase the public debt; and the commonwealth would be constrained to go on borrow-

ing from year to year, with an appearance of decay, which would be dishonourable to a state, which, well administered, would be one of the brightest stars in the political galaxy.

Your committee, therefore, whilst it would be their duty and their gratification, to advocate any measure calculated to afford relief for present distresses, consistent with justice and sound policy, are unwilling to recommend the institution of a loan office; they lament the condition of many of their fellow citizens, but they console themselves with the knowledge, that we have a free government, trifling taxes, a fertile soil, a thrifty population—and above all, *experience*, which having been purchased at a dear rate, must not only be of present advantage, but of infinite utility to posterity.

PROHIBITORY DUTIES.

Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting to Congress a report on the subject of prohibiting the importation of cotton, woollen, and iron manufactures, and his opinion of the effect such prohibition will have on the revenue of the United States.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

27th January, 1820.

Sir—In obedience to a resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 4th instant, directing the secretary of the treasury “to inform the House what reduction, in his opinion, it will make in the revenue, if the importation of cotton and woollen manufactures, and iron, be prohibited, and in what manner the deficit in the revenue may be supplied, should the prohibition be made,” I have the honour to submit statements of the amount of revenue which accrued from those articles, from the year 1815 to 1818, inclusive.

The very great difference in the amount of revenue which accrued during those years, renders it difficult to determine what the reduction would be, should the prohibition be enforced. It is probable that the deficiency, for a number of successive years, would amount to the average sum of six millions of dollars.

If an increase of the rate of duty would necessarily augment the revenue in the same proportion, the deficiency might be readily supplied. But reason and experience forbid the expectation of such a result. The importation of foreign merchandise is regulated by the capacity of the importing country to pay an equivalent for them. Any increase of duty diminishes this capacity. When carried to an extreme, it amounts to prohibition. But the revenue will frequently be diminished by an increase of duty, when the consumption of the article is not diminished. Whenever the duty is raised so high as to equal the risk incurred by an attempt to introduce dutiable articles illicitly, smuggling, upon an extensive and systematic plan, commences. In that case, not only their consumption, but the capacity to pay for them, may be increased, whilst the revenue may be diminished.

Considering the facilities which the extent of our coasts and frontiers, and the numerous harbours, bays, inlets, and rivers, by which they

are indented, furnish for the illicit introduction of foreign merchandise, the settled policy of the government has been to diminish, as far as practicable, the temptation which high duties would furnish to take advantage of these facilities. Should the existing duties be considerably raised, there is just ground to apprehend that the revenue would be reduced, rather than augmented, by the change. Indeed, there is just reason to believe, that, with the present rate of duty the practice of smuggling is gradually increasing. Any attempt to raise the deficiency which will be produced by the prohibition under consideration, by an increase of duty upon the articles which will still be imported, will greatly increase the expense of collection, by the necessity which it would create to employ a greater number of officers of the customs, to guard against smuggling, and eventually fail to augment the revenue to the required extent. The principal reliance for supplying the deficiency which would be produced by the adoption of the measure contemplated by the resolution, must, it appears to me, be placed in a system of internal duties, or direct tax.

In aid of either of these modes of augmenting the revenue, a small addition might be made upon the rate of duty now paid upon linens, manufactures of hemp, stuff goods, coffee, brown sugar, teas, wines, molasses, spices, and other small articles. If a system of internal duties should be deemed at this time advisable, an entire prohibition of ardent spirits might be adopted, without material injury to the revenue, and with manifest advantage to the agricultural interest. In that event, the revenue which has been heretofore received from the duties imposed upon foreign spirits, might be collected from domestic spirits.

I have the honour to be, your most obedient servant,

WM. H. CRAWFORD.

Hon. Speaker of the
House of Representatives.

A Statement of the Duties arising on imported Merchandise, paying an ad valorem duty of 25 per cent. to 30th June, 1819, of which woollens and cottons form almost the exclusive articles, for the years 1815, 1816, 1817, and 1818, with the amount of drawback annually paid on re-exportation.

YEARS.	Amount of duties.	Amount of drawback.	Net amount
	DOLLS.	DOLLS.	DOLLS.
In 1815	17,813,277	189,768	17,623,509
1816	11,013,142	981,791	10,031,351
1817	4,967,503	644,653	4,322,850
1818	6,753,008	534,307	6,218,701

NOTE.—The treasury records do not afford any means of ascertaining the amount of duties, so as to distinguish woollens from the various descriptions of cottons, whether from India or Europe, nor of cotton yarns from cotton piece goods.

Treasury Department,
Register's Office, Jan. 6, 1820.
JOSEPH NOURSE, Register.

A Statement of the Duties arising in the Years 1815, 1816, 1817, and 1818, on the Importation of Articles of Iron Manufacture, paying a specific Duty, with the Amount of Drawback annually paid on their Re-exportation.

ARTICLES.	1815.			1816.			1817.			1818.		
	Amount of duties.	Amount of drawback.	Net amount.	Amount of duties.	Amount of drawback.	Net amount.	Amount of duties.	Amount of drawback.	Net amount.	Amount of duties.	Amount of drawback.	Net amount.
Anchors and sheet	68,249	—	68,249	19,658	292	19,366	2,904	—	2,904	3,637	692	2,945
Slit and hoop	38,170	244	37,926	77,239	3,631	73,608	24,631	3,405	21,226	—	—	—
Nails	39,566	2,704	36,863	91,789	5,151	86,638	44,139	8,047	36,092	48,192	8,130	40,062
Spikes	4,296	1	4,295	14,387	1,117	13,270	6,898	1,019	5,879	7,522	443	7,079
Bar and bolt rolled	—	—	—	63,407	11,384	52,023	48,558	24,686	23,872	92,319	11,025	81,294
— hammered	—	—	—	195,188	4,998	190,190	163,442	6,127	154,315	213,274	4,323	208,951
Pig and castings	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14,042	58	13,984
Sheet, rod and hoop	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	48,902	4,140	44,762
Total	150,281	2,948	147,333	461,668	26,573	435,095	287,572	43,284	244,288	427,888	28,811	399,077

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Register's Office, 7th January, 1820.
JOSEPH NOURSE, Register.

MARRIED.

On the 5th inst. by the Rev. Mr. Pilmore, captain Thomas Blackstone, of the 7th United States infantry, to Miss Caroline Amelia Yohe, of this city.

On the 10th inst. by the Right Rev. Bishop White, Mr. James Glentworth, jun. to Miss Mary, daughter of Mr. John Watson, all of this city.

DIED.

On the 26th July last, on board the ship *Adriana*, bound to Canton, in the 24th year of his age, Mr. Hugh Donaldson, of this city, merchant, son of John Donaldson, esq. a young man whose amiable temper, moral conduct, and unassuming manners, justly endeared him to all who knew him.

At Natchez, January 17th, of a pulmonary complaint, in the 24th year of his age, Mr. Charles G. Paleske, son of the late Charles G. Paleske, esq. of Philadelphia.

In the Pennsylvania Hospital, on the 27th ult. Elizabeth Ellison, widow, a native of Philadelphia, aged 92 years.

On the 5th inst. John Carothers, in the 74th year of his age; he was one of the first inhabitants of Northumberland, and one that lent his aid in achieving the independence which we now enjoy.

On the 13th inst. Mrs. Ann Stokes, wife of Mr. Charles Stokes, merchant, of this city.

Internal Improvement.

Connexion of Lake Erie with the Ohio river.

Ohio legislature.—The committee to whom was referred so much of the governor's message as relates to the improvement of the country by roads and canals, respectfully report—

That they have had that subject under their consideration, and have given to it all the attention which its importance demands. They conceive it unnecessary at this day, to attempt any illustration of the great advantages to be derived from improvements of the kind contemplated by the governor's message.

Canal navigation, particularly, has long been considered as an important item in the general economy of nations. Until a few years past, however, the United States of America contented themselves with admiring, from the description of travellers, the magnificent works of this kind which have been accomplished in the other quarters of the globe. Of late, however, they appear to have awakened from their lethargy—there being scarce a state in the union which has not some project of this kind either in contemplation or in active progress to completion. The states of New York and Virginia have taken the lead in this patriotic race. In the former a most stupendous work of this description has been commenced, prosecuted with ardour, and completed to a point to be immediately useful, leaving no doubt of the speedy accomplishment of the whole plan. Virginia has created a separate department to superintend her internal improvements, and adopted the prosecution of these improvements as a settled and permanent principle of her policy.

If we can judge of the temper of the state from the ardour with which its executive has recommended the subject to the attention of the legislature, Pennsylvania will not be outdone by her sister states in this honourable and useful career.

It remains for the legislature to determine whether Ohio will disregard these laudable examples, remain insensible to her present interests, the interests of posterity, and the advantages which a bountiful Providence has put within her reach. If her pecuniary resources

are not as ample as those of some of the states, she has the power of effecting more with smaller means than any other does or ever did possess. Her southern and northern boundaries are washed by waters which form part of two immense channels of internal communication, which have, perhaps, no parallel on the whole globe.

A canal, the cost of which would not, in Europe, be considered as beyond the efforts of a single individual, would unite these great natural channels, enable your merchants, without the risk and danger of a sea voyage, to bring together, for the purpose of commerce, the products of higher northern latitudes and those of the tropical climates, and to all your citizens the choice of a market at more than 2000 miles apart. Nor are these the only motives for the accomplishment of this important work.

If the farmer can see in it the means of future prosperity, and the merchant the prospect of great commercial advantages, the politician will also discover the facilities which it will give to the operations of war, and the patriot rejoice in the new bond of union and concord between the distant members of this rising empire.

Your committee have not been able to see any insurmountable difficulty to the accomplishment of this important work. They will not, they dare not believe, that in this patriotic state any local jealousies will prevent its commencement or impede its progress. The plan which they propose will be best understood by the bill and resolution herewith submitted. In confining the location of the northern part of the proposed canal to the lands which the United States have lately acquired from the Indian tribes, they were governed by the consideration that Congress might be induced to make an appropriation of a part of the lands through which it will pass, to aid in the accomplishment of the object. Your committee believe that it would not be difficult to convince that honourable body, that apart from other motives, the treasury would ultimately gain by such an appropriation, from the great appreciation which the completion of the canal would give to the adjacent lands.

The following are the most prominent features of the bill alluded to in the above report.

Sect. 1. That — be, and they are hereby appointed commissioners for locating a route for a canal between Lake Erie and the Ohio river, to commence on the former, either on some part of the Sandusky bay, or between said bay and the foot of the Miami Rapids, and thence by the most eligible route to the Ohio river.—Sect. 2, authorizes the commissioners to appoint engineers, assistants, chain carriers, &c. and to allow them compensation.—Sect. 3, designates the duties, &c.—Sect. 4. That if at the present session of Congress, a law should be passed for appropriating a part of the lands through which said canal may pass to aid in the construction thereof, the route designated by said commissioners, from its commencement to the old Indian boundary line, shall be considered as fixed, &c.

Extract of a letter from *George F. A. Hauto*, esq. to a member of the legislature, relative to the progress made by Messrs. *White*, *Hauto*, and

Hazard, in improving the navigation, &c. on the river Lehigh—dated

Mauch-Chunk, Northampton county, Pa.
December 19, 1819.

"You know I believe the ground between this and our principal coal mine, and that it would hardly be possible to find a more unfavourable time for the construction of a good road—so much so, that when we determined on making it, many of our friends doubted our being *compos mentis*. The perpendicular elevation from the river, (at this place, where it ends) to the mine is 1000 feet—the distance from it to the river is upwards of eight miles. Down it, and following the windings of the mountain, which runs nearly at right angles to the river, we constructed in about three months, and most part of it in the winter season, a road having a regular declination of $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet in every 100 feet; and which is acknowledged by those who have seen it, not to have (for its distance) its equal in the confederacy. On it one horse can draw four tons with ease.

"This mine, at our arrival, had quite an inconsiderable opening, like a moderate sized stone quarry; since which we have uncovered about two acres of coal land, removing all the earth, dirt, slate, &c. (about twelve feet deep) so as to leave a surface for the whole of that area, of nothing but the purest coal, containing millions of bushels. We cut a passage through the rocks, so that now the teams drive right into the mine to load. The mine being situate near the summit of the mountain, we are not troubled with water, and the coal, quarries very easy. We have worked the stratum about 30 feet deep. How much deeper it is we do not know: probably capt. Symmes will find the end of it worked by our brethren within, when he gets under Mauch Chunk. At any rate, ocular demonstration proves it to be sufficient for the utmost consumption of centuries to come. The effect of our road has already been, that it enables us to sell the coal at the landing here, where we have a large quantity, *cheaper* than the price our predecessor (Mr. Cist) had to pay for the *hauling only*. On this road we have now a sufficient number of teams to haul several thousand bushels of coal per day. We employ at present mostly oxen and large carts, except a few horse wagons, each of which loads nine tons. We are constructing a steam wagon, contrived by Mr. Hazard, which will be ready in a week, (as a substitute for cattle) to draw our coal. Should we succeed in this experiment, the second one, on a larger scale, will be immediately put on the stocks, and followed by others, so as to have a sufficient number for our spring operations. All the works for the steam engine, except some rough castings, were made and finished on a spot which was, twelve months ago, a *wilderness*, and where, within the period of a generation, the *Lenape* filled the air with their war whoops.

"We have erected about forty buildings for different purposes, amongst which is a saw mill driven by the river, for the purpose of sawing stuff for the use of the navigation. It has a gang to which 24 saws belong, cutting about 20,000 feet per day, on one side; and a circular saw on the other. One other saw mill driven by the

Mauch Chunk; a grist mill; a mill for saving labour in the construction of wagons, &c. also driven by the creek—smitheries, with eight fires—workshops, dwellings, shipyards, wharves, &c. &c. We have cut about 15,000 saw logs, and cleared 400 acres of land.

"On the river, notwithstanding the extreme low water, which prevented our floating the timber used in the construction of our dams, to the spots wanted, we have constructed 50 dams, (measuring 38,500 feet, or about $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles) and 16 locks. The locks are the invention of Mr. White, and will be found, in every respect, superior to those now in use. Should it be desired, I will send you a description of them. Our brave boys worked in the river till the ice drove them out last week.

"Just before the winter set in, we had the satisfaction to ascertain, by taking a couple of our coal boats down loaded as far as our improvements extended, (the water being ten inches under the common summer low water mark,) that the plan of creating artificial freshets in times of extreme low water, which formed the basis of our plan of improvement is correct, and answers fully our expectations; and would have enabled us had the river kept open a few days longer, to take all our arks down to the city. To complete the improvement of the lower part of the river, will take us, should the season be any way favourable, till some time in June next; when we shall apply for inspection, and commence the upper section of the river.

"As every thing that relates to internal improvement is viewed with great interest by us, we beg that you will take the trouble to communicate to us, at an early hour, any thing in that line which may come before the legislature. And as the Delaware being part of our turnpike to an ultimate market, interests us more particularly, we would thank you for the earliest information respecting any offer for its improvement."

Miscellany.

GOOD FEELING.

Report of Mr. Raguet's remarks on the bill before the Senate of Pennsylvania, granting ten thousand dollars to the sufferers at Savannah.

Mr. Raguet said, that in addition to the view taken of the subject by his colleague, he would call the attention of the Senate to another view, which had been forcibly impressed upon his mind. It was, that the embracing of every opportunity to cultivate the feelings of friendship and of mutual good-will, between the inhabitants of different states, was one of the surest and most effectual modes to perpetuate the existence of the union. He had more than once been appointed, at the public meetings of his fellow citizens, to assist in the collection of contributions for the relief of those who had suffered by the fires in the cities of other states; and

amongst the variety of characters to whom he had been introduced in the performance of that duty, his feelings had been upon one occasion most sensibly excited by such expressions as these: "Sir, I am happy in having an opportunity to contribute my donation to these unfortunate sufferers. I have often thought that occasions like the present should be regarded as one of the few mediums, which are placed within the reach of the inhabitants of the different states, to testify their good wishes for the prosperity and happiness of each other; and they should be cultivated as one of the chief means of drawing more closely those bands of political friendship, which alone can ensure the duration of our happy form of government." Such generous and noble sentiments as these should never be forgotten; and Mr. Raguet was rejoiced, whilst he sympathized most sincerely with those for whose relief we were about to provide, at having an occasion to testify to the citizens of Savannah the deep interest for their welfare which had been excited in Pennsylvania by the dreadful calamity with which they had been afflicted. But there was another reason why a liberal and manly conduct should be displayed by the legislature, at this particular moment. It was well known that a subject of the highest importance, and one which involved a great diversity of feeling, had for some time agitated the councils of the nation: he alluded to the great question of the restriction of slavery in the new states about to be admitted into the union. This subject had occasioned some warmth and temper between the citizens of the slaveholding and non-slaveholding states; and he was desirous of seeing Pennsylvania, *who was the first to raise her voice against the further extension of the system of slavery, also the first to extend the hand of affection to a sister in distress.* Such a course would convince the world, that charity and benevolence are the principles which actuate the policy of our state, and would do much to allay that asperity which had unhappily resulted from the discussion of the Missouri question. He concluded by hoping that the decision on this question would, from its unanimity, reflect as much honour upon the Senate, as that body had derived from its decision on the former question, as both had their origin in a similarity of feeling.

The bill was then passed through all its stages *unanimously*, and was ordered to be sent to the other house for concurrence.

FROM THE LONDON TIMES.

We have inserted from the American papers some documents relating to the "state of domestic slavery" in the North American republic, which are equally interesting to the sound statesman and to the Christian moralist. The existence of slavery in a free republic may plead the example of antiquity, but it was the Heathens who furnished that example; and among them it may have been justified by its efficacy in restraining the savage practices of ancient warfare, when the captive, if not enslaved, would necessarily have been butchered. But, in a community, which boasts at once of being free and Christian, "the most moral and enlightened" people on earth, as they call themselves, how the toleration of domestic slavery can be palliated—how it can be explained—we must leave to those who insist on the continuance of that blessing, as one of their most valued rights and enjoyments. The negro slavery of the United States, and of the West Indies, is the disgrace of the Christian world. The slave population of North America, however, is confined to certain states, and we do not apprehend that its acknowledged influence on the morals, happiness, and prosperity of their white inhabitants, has been such as to make the Congress very anxious to extend the guilty privilege of slave-ownership beyond its actual limits. The principal document which we have extracted from the American journals, is a sketch of the argument addressed by Mr. Rufus King to the Senate of the U. States, on what is called the Missouri bill, tending to show that Congress, if it cannot extinguish the evil in the old states, who stipulated originally for its continuance as the price of their accession to the union, can at least restrain all future states, who may be admitted by the authority of the supreme legislature to a partnership in the national sovereignty, from indulging in this odious and criminal traffic. We are happy to find that a meeting in furtherance of the same views, has been held in the city of Philadelphia, and attended by persons of the highest respectability, who declared that they were bound by all the dictates of reason, benevolence, and religion, to oppose with their best efforts the extension of slavery to states hereafter to be admitted into the union. A committee of correspondence, consisting of 25, was then appointed, to circulate the proceedings of the meeting, and to support by fit publications the opinions of its members. If not wholly eradicated, therefore, the

moral pestilence, there is room for hoping, will be speedily and severely checked.

To the Editors of the National Recorder.

Gentlemen—Should the enclosed obituary notice be deemed worthy of a place in your paper, will you be good enough to give it one.

New York, Feb. 12, 1820.

OBITUARY.

"Absent or dead, still let a friend be near—
"A sigh the absent claims, the dead a tear."

Died, on the 2d of December last, on his passage to St. Croix, whither he was going for the benefit of his health, the Rev. JAMES W. EASTBURN, A. M. eldest son of James Eastburn, esq. of New York, and late minister of St. George's, Accomac, Virginia. To bestow a tribute to departed worth is at all times laudable, but more particularly so, when we are called to witness the death of a person cut off in the prime of life, and in the midst of usefulness: it conveys to us a lesson that should teach us the uncertainty of all human expectations, and furnishes another proof that youth, virtue, and every quality which can tend to make us respected and beloved, afford no security from the grasp of death. This young gentleman received his education at Columbia College; distinguished for superior talents, his time and attention were constantly employed in the improvement and cultivation of his mind; amiable in his disposition, and pleasing in his deportment, he gained the esteem and affection of all his companions; as a scholar few were superior, as a friend none. He passed through this institution with honour and distinction, and received the degree of A. B. at the commencement of 1816. Shortly after receiving his degree, he entered upon the study of divinity, under the care of the Right Rev. Bishop Griswold, (Bristol, R. I.) and the degree of A. M. was awarded him in 1819, by the institution from which he had graduated. He was a member of the Peitho-Logian Society of C. C., and at their different exhibitions contributed by his productions to its advancement and respectability, and there gave early promise of future eminence: the records of this society fully testify to his value and usefulness. He has left affectionate parents and relations to mourn his irreparable loss; and the numerous friends to whom he was endeared for his many and amiable virtues will long remember his value and his worth. This feeble testimony to the memory of a person so respected, is the production of an associate, who admired his character, and whose memory he will for a long time fondly cherish.

"For oh, could virtue claim the power to save,
Could youth, could friendship rescue from the grave,

He still had lived, of every grace possessed,
By young admired, by the old caressed.
But vain their aid, the fatal shaft was sped,
The placid youth obedient bowed the head,
Calmly beheld the slow approach of death,
And with a fervent prayer resigned his breath.
His soul, dismissed, exulting burst its ties,
And rose triumphant to its native skies."

G. C. C.

ON BREAD STUFFS.

Extract from a correspondent in Kentucky, dated Lexington, 10th Jan. 1820, to a friend in Washington.

"I am not acquainted with ———, or any of the navy board, or would write to them on the subject of making two preparations of Indian corn a part of the sea stores for our ships, particularly on long voyages. I mean hominy and parched meal.

1st. Hominy, when well beaten, of good white flint corn, and dried in the sun, after it is cleared of bran and corn, it is my opinion, will keep a great length of time. I have it in my family all the year, and find it as good in the fall as spring. Put up in tight barrels there would be no danger of its spoiling, and it would be an excellent article for the sailors to boil with their pork. Parched meal has long been used by the western people, and by the Indians time out of mind, and found very beneficial in long expeditions, the more especially when provisions began to get scarce, as a very small quantity will subsist a man many days. To prepare it, the corn should be first parched, and then ground very fine, and mixed with as much brown sugar as will make it agreeable—the usual mode here is, 1 lb. of sugar to the gallon measure, but many put more. A table spoonful of this mixture in a pint of cold water, is much better than a pint of coffee or chocolate, and would furnish an excellent beverage in stormy weather, when it is difficult to make coffee or chocolate. Should the above meet your approbation, and be found of any use to our navy, it will be highly gratifying to me." [Nat. Int.

TOMBS OF FRENCH KINGS.

The national convention, in the year 1793, passed a decree upon the motion of Barrere, that the graves and monuments of the kings in St. Denis, and in all other places throughout France, should be destroyed. Nor were they contented with this: but the graves of all the celebrated persons who had been interred at St. Denis were opened also, that the leaden coffins might be applied to the use of the republic!

The details of this barbarous exhumation are curious, and serve to heighten, if that be possible, our abhorrence for an act so abominable in every respect. The first vault which they opened was that of Turenne. The body was found dry like a mummy, and of a light bister colour, the

features perfectly resembling the portrait of this distinguished general. As Turenne did not happen to be an object of popular obloquy, some enthusiasm was felt or affected at the sight of his remains; relics were sought after with great eagerness, and Camille Desmoulins cut off one of his little fingers; the body was turned over to the person who held the sexton's place, and he kept it in a chest for some months to make a show of it, till at the intercession of M. Desfontaines, it was permitted to be removed to the Jardin des Plantes. In 1799 it was twice transferred, by order of the directory, first to the museum of monuments, (that most characteristic exhibition of French feeling and French taste,) and secondly to the Church of Invalids, which, according to the anti-christian fashion of the day, was then called the Temple of Mars!

Henry the Fourth's grave was the next which was violated. His features also were perfect. The head had been opened and the cavity filled with tow dipped in an aromatic extract, so strong, that the odour was scarcely supportable. A soldier cut off a lock of the beard with his sabre, and putting it upon his upper lip, exclaimed "en termes energiques et vraiment militaires, says the French writer, Et moi aussi, je suis soldat Francois! desormais je n'aurai pas d'autre moustache! Maintenant je suis sur de vaincre les ennemis de la France, et je marche a la victoire!" In spite, however, of this fanfaronade, the body was placed upright upon a stone, for the rabble to divert themselves with it; and a woman, reproaching the dead Henri with the crime of having been a king, knocked down the corpse by giving it a blow in the face; after which it was left for some days to be the sport of these Yahoos, till it was thrown at last into the common pit prepared for the remains upon which their senseless vengeance was exercised.

Louis XIV. was found in a state of perfect preservation, but entirely black. The body of Louis XV. was fresh, but red, lying bathed in a liquor formed by the dissolution of the salt with which it had been covered. In the coffin of Jeanne de Bourbon, wife of Charles V. a gilt distaff was found with the remains of a crown, bracelets, and embroidered shoes. The body of Louis VIII. was the only one which had been sewed up in leather: the leather was strong and thick, and retained all its elasticity; the body was almost consumed, as was the winding sheet, but fragments of its gold embroidery were still existing. Dago-

bert and his queen Nanthildes were in one coffin with a partition between them. The workmen were long before they could discover the vault of Francis I. and his family. It contained six leaden coffins deposited upon bars of iron: in all these the remains were in a state of liquid putrefaction, which made its way through the lead as they were removed, and the odour was almost insupportable. The bodies of many of the latter Bourbons were also in a state of decomposition, and when the coffins were opened, they are said to have emitted a thick black vapour, which, though vinegar and gunpowder were burnt to prevent ill consequences, affected the wretches employed in this inhuman work with fevers and diarrhœas. Two large pits had been dug in front of the north entrance of the church, and quick lime laid in them; into these pits the bodies were cast promiscuously, and the entrails, which had been deposited separately in leaden vessels; this lead and the leaden coffins were then carried to a furnace which had been erected in the cemetery, and cast into balls, 'destined to punish the enemies of the republic,' and it was more than once proposed in the national convention, that the church itself should be totally destroyed!

[*N. Y. American.*]

FROM THE NEW YORK DAILY ADVERTISER, FEB. 3.

Extract of a letter to a gentleman in this city, dated August 26th, 1819.

Off Anjier Point, Straits of Sunda.

After a very fair passage of 98 days we arrived at Java Head. The captain, supercargo, officers, in short, the whole crew, have been on my list since we left the Capes of Delaware; however, save three or four cases, they were not of much import. Capt. Fisher says, he never knew so much sickness to occur in an outward bound vessel before. I have as yet made out very well. What success I shall have in Batavia, ("the unwholesome air of which place alone, says Dr. Lind, has cut off more Europeans than have fallen by the sword in all the bloody wars carried on by the Dutch in that part of the world") I know not. I trust, however, we will become inured to the climate in some measure, before the rainy season commences; for, at that time, it is more particularly deadly hostile to foreigners. I attribute the constant sickness on board of our ship, to the sudden vicissitudes of climate, &c.; at the beginning of a month, it being the dead of

winter, towards the end of it, being within the tropics, and the thermometer standing at 90° in the shade. Hail, very cold rain and snow, were usual occurrences at the beginning of August. On the 7th, the thermometer stood at 47°, and on the 26th of the same month, at 90° and at 112° in the sun. In nineteen days, behold the amazing change 43° variation!

The Malays came off to trade with us; fowls at \$5 per hundred; sweet potatoes, 20 baskets full for a dollar, about 2 barrels; and yams, pine apples, bananas, plantains, sugar, rice, monkeys, and birds of every description, all equally cheap.

The Malays are nearly naked, merely a belt round the body, and turban on the head; long black hair, red skin, and their teeth (from chewing the beetle nut,) black as jet. They all wanted to purchase opium, and had any of us had a small quantity on board, we should have made out very well with it; they smoke it, and consider it a very great luxury.

Batavia, Sept. 6th, 1819.

We arrived on the 28th of August, 102 days from the Capes of Delaware. Batavia is alike the pride and the disgrace of the Dutch nation. While I admire their magnificent houses, the taste they display in decorating them—their beautiful shrubberies, groves, &c. surpassing, perhaps, the richest scenery in the world—while I gaze with delight on plantations of cocoas, plantains, oranges, mangustins, pine apples, &c. interspersed with hills covered with the richest verdure, and literally teeming with birds whose plumage vie with the most luxuriant tint of nature—yet I say, although I am transported with the beauties of Batavia, I am, on the other hand, as equally disgusted with the numerous canals intersecting the city, the filth allowed to accumulate in them, the stagnant marshes, where 'wasteful, forth walks the dire power of pestilential disease'—'Here dwells the direful shark, and horrid alligator.' One of our men fell overboard the other day, and had just got in the boat as a shark sprung towards him. On the bar opposite the canal I see alligators every time I pass there, some of which are as long as our jolly boat. During the westerly monsoon it is dangerous to go by the bar at low water; they have been known to attack boats on the bar at that time; they stay opposite the canals, and pick up all the filth as it comes out. All the dirt in Batavia is thrown into these canals, which run before every house; even some of the

Malays when they die are frequently flung in, yet their filthy, dirty horrid water, they not only bathe in, but actually drink!

The town, properly speaking, is occupied by the natives of the island of Java, (the Malays) and some Chinamen, who are banished from their country for the most part. The Dutch and foreigners merely come to town in the morning to transact business, and go out to dinner; nobody, save the natives of Java, ever sleep in the town; I shall sleep on board of the ship altogether. We are about two miles from the shore, and the noxious vapour from the canals, &c. can have very little if any effect on us. Some of our men have been sick, but are recruiting. This is properly the dry season, but there has been a great deal of rain lately, and it is said that the place has not been so sickly for upward of forty years. It is now becoming healthy, and I hope will continue so. I am tired already: I would prefer the ocean's dreary waste to merely a sight of land without enjoying the converse of sociable people. I see thousands of women to be sure, and a few Dutch ladies, but foreigners are not often invited to their houses; so that I must forego the pleasure of speaking to a woman, till I hail the domestic and happy shores of America.

Every thing is very high—the market is overstocked with chattels of every description, so that it is difficult to get rid of a cargo without sacrificing it. Several vessels have gone to Manilla, and it is expected coffee will fall in the course of 5 or 6 weeks: it has been as high as \$38, and is now \$21 per picul. There are more vessels already gone to Manilla than the produce of the island of Luzon or Luzonia, were it double, could furnish with

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I consider music as a great preventive of disease. We have a drum and fife on board, and have them played every night. Men from the fatigue of the day would probably after sunset resort to drink or lie down on the deck all night in the rain, &c. were it not for the 'spirit stirring drum and ear piercing fife,' which exhilarate them wonderfully—the labour of the day is forgotten, and home with all its comforts rises to their view. There is not a more powerful stimulus in the whole materia medica; a vessel on a long voyage should always be supplied with it.

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Acts of distinguished liberality and munificence.—It is now understood, says a writer in the Boston Daily Advertiser, that

the late Samuel Elliot, esq. of this town, was the founder of the Greek professorship in Cambridge University. It was founded in April, 1814, by a donation of \$20,000 in specie. Mr. Elliot, by his last will, has bequeathed \$1500 for the relief of decayed families not dependent upon any public charity. \$3000 to the Massachusetts Congregational Charitable Society, for the relief of widows and orphans of clergymen of the congregational persuasion. \$10,000 to the asylum for the insane at Charlestown. \$2000 also to the Savings Bank at Boston, the interest of which to be forever applied to defray the expenses of the institution; but finding it required no such aid, he withdrew it, by a codicil, and gave it where he thought it would do more good.

Jonathan Dwight, esq. of Springfield, Mass. during the last year, erected, at his own expense, a very beautiful and commodious church, in that town, and gave it to the second congregational church, of which he is a member; and, from the sale of the pews, a fund has been established more than sufficient for the liberal support of a minister. [Alb. Gaz.]

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Society for the Promotion of Useful Arts.

Albany, January 31, 1820.

The following premiums are offered, and will be awarded by the society at their session in 1821.

1st. For the best memoir on the articles of mineral, vegetable or animal produce, which may be advantageously exported from the state in addition to, or as a substitute for, those which have hitherto been the staple of her foreign commerce—a gold medal of the value of forty dollars.

2d. For the best memoir on the means of managing our domestic concerns, so as to diminish the consumption of the foreign articles of importation, without reducing our nutrition, comforts or pleasures—a gold medal of the value of forty dollars.

3d. For the most satisfactory experiments on the cultivation and improvement of any new plant, indigenous or exotic, which may be advantageously introduced into the state, for the food of man, or domestic animals, or for manufacturing purposes—a silver medal of the value of twenty dollars.

4th. For the most satisfactory experiment on the exploration and improvement of any kind of mineral substance, in the state, which may become an interesting subject of domestic consumption or ex-

portation—a silver medal of the value of twenty dollars.

5th. For the most satisfactory experiment made to raise and improve any species of animals not hitherto domesticated, or in common use, which may be advantageously applied to economical or manufacturing purposes—a silver medal of the value of twenty dollars.

N. B. The above premiums will be given only to such memoirs or experiments as shall bring to the knowledge of the society information not before generally known, and which shall be judged beneficial to the community.

The memoirs and descriptions of experiments properly authenticated, must be forwarded, free of expense, to the recording secretary of the society, Doctor Jonathan Eights, at Albany, on or before the first day of Feb. 1821.

JOHN EIGHTS, *Rec. Sec'ry.*

It is in agitation at Sheffield (England,) to erect a grand cast-iron pillar in the centre of the town, at the top of which is to be a large ball, which is to be lighted up with gas, so that the whole of the town and its environs may be illuminated thereby. The height of the proposed pillar is to be forty-eight, and the diameter two feet and a half.

MSS. at Herculaneum.—Of the number of manuscripts found in the ruins of Herculaneum, and which had been there enclosed during 1696 years, 88 have been unrolled, and are now legible. There are 319 utterly destroyed—24 have been given away as presents. It is hoped, that from 100 to 120 may yet be saved, out of 1265 manuscripts that remain to be unrolled and deciphered, by means of a chemical operation, which will cost about £3000 sterling.

[*Petersburgh Paper.*]

New Gun.—His royal highness the duke of York, attended by lieutenant general sir Harry Calvert, adjutant general to the forces; sir Willoughby Gordon, quarter master general; sir Herbert Taylor, and other distinguished military characters, had an inspection at York house, St. James's palace, of the newly invented gun of Mr. E. Collier. This invention was minutely described by that gentleman. It is a gun, weighing less than the ordinary musket, composed of seven barrels: one of the common length, and in the same position; around it, at the breech, are six others, of about three inches only. The whole being charged, and the priming for the whole placed in the magazine-hammer, which preserves it quite dry, and yields just suffi-

cient, and no more, to each charge; the simple act of cocking places, successively, each of the short barrels in connexion with the long one, and that of shutting the pan primes it. His royal highness was pleased to express his approbation of this ingenious invention, which promises to be of considerable importance. [*N. Y. American.*]

Apprentices Library.—The mechanics of this town are about forming a '*Library for Apprentices*,' to be composed of books of instruction in their respective trades, with a proportion of publications upon Geography, History, Travels, Voyages, &c. The object is laudable and praiseworthy, and we have no doubt the example will have its effect in other states. [Upwards of 100 vols. have already been left at the Centinel Office.] [*Bost. Intel.*]

Bank of England Notes.—We have seen a specimen of a part of the plates executed by the ingenious Mr. Jacob Perkins, of Massachusetts, in London, for the notes of the bank of England. The general beauty of the work is striking; but it is particularly curious on account of the introduction of the preamble to the charter of the bank of England upon the back of the note, in a space not so large as a quarter of a dollar; in the form of an ellipsis. The letters are illegible to the naked eye, but may be easily read by means of a lens—and are then perfectly beautiful and distinct. [*Bost. Intell.*]

New method of killing Animals.—A new mode has been prepared in England, of putting animals to death, which is said to be done without pain to the beast, and that the meat tastes, cooks, keeps and salts better. It is done by fixed air. The animal bleeds freely. A number of butchers are said to have adopted the new mode.

The German Correspondent.—We have received the first number of a periodical publication, under this title, published in this city. The work is printed with a large and handsome type, and on superfine royal paper; and issued at six cents for eight pages, payable on delivery. The first number contains 8 octavo pages, and the succeeding numbers will contain 8 or 16, as occasion may require. We have no doubt the work will present much valuable information in relation to German literature; and we wish the editor entire success. The following is an extract from the first number:—

Tallmadge's speech on slavery has been translated into German, by Dr. Bran; and Schaeffer's sermon on the reformation, and

his account of the solemnization of the third centurial jubilee in New York, has been translated by *Hartwig Von Hundt-Radowsky*. These publications are accompanied by introductory remarks of the learned translators, and have had an extensive circulation in Germany. Much curiosity has been excited there, on the necessity of a speech like that of Mr. Tallmadge, in a country which boasts of rational liberty, and declares all men to be born free and equal. [*N. Y. Com. Adv.*]

Madame de Genlis' French national tale, entitled, *Julien Delmour*, or *The New Era*, has caused as great a sensation in the circles of Paris, as Lady Morgan's *Florence* has done among those of London and Dublin. After various interesting and amusing scenes, resulting from marriages, intrigues, and personal observations, evidently made in society, during which a number of very singular characters are introduced, Julien's memoirs give a very animated description of many of those circumstances which preceded the revolution. The dreadful and sometimes ludicrous incidents, which occurred almost daily during the reign of proscription and terror, are forcibly described in this work; there is also a strong vein of satire running through the book, and a number of well-known characters, by no means equivocally pointed out.

Sir Benjamin West was so much indisposed that his friends are apprehensive that he will not long survive—his disorder is a general debility, and his legs are much swollen.

Poetry.

From a late London Paper.

TO A FRIEND ABOUT TO MARRY A SECOND TIME.

Ne profectura pecando.—Ovid.

Oh, keep the ring, one little year,
Keep poor Eliza's ring,
And shed on it the silent tear,
In secret sorrowing.

Thy lips, on which her last, last kiss,
Yet lingers moist and warm,
Oh, wipe them not for newer bliss,
Oh, keep it as a charm.

These haunts are sacred to her love,
Here still her presence dwells;
Of her the grot, of her the grove,
Of her the garden tells.

Beneath these elms you sate and talk'd,
Beside that river's brink,
At evening arm-in-arm you walk'd,
Here stopp'd to gaze and think.

Thou'll meet her when thy bloom beats high
In converse with thy bride,
Meet the mild meaning of an eye
That never learnt to chide.

Oh, no, by Heaven, another here
Thou canst not, must not bring:
No, keep it—but one little year,
Keep poor Eliza's ring.

From Foreign Magazines.

Respiration of Frogs.—It appears from a series of curious experiments performed by M. Edwards, and detailed in the *Annales de Chimie et Physique* for January 1819, that frogs, toads, and lizards, are preserved alive and in health under water for weeks, by means of the air contained in the water, which they abstract, not by the lungs but by the skin. [*Edinb. P. J.*]

Portable Gas Lights.—Mr. Gordon, of Edinburgh, has taken out a patent for this contrivance, which consists in condensing from 20 to 30 atmospheres of the gas in a vessel of sufficient strength, and furnished with one or more apertures for combustion, with proper stop-cocks. A globe of one foot diameter, properly charged with gas, will yield a light equal to six common candles, for twelve hours; and so on in proportion for other sizes. The forms, of course, may be varied. The result of this contrivance will be, that families will by and by send their servants to the gas maker, (as formerly to the candle maker) to get their portable magazine charged and ready for lighting every day, or every second day, without subjecting themselves to the trouble of making their gas in their own houses. [*Gent. Mag.*]

Dr. Hill, Latin professor at Edinburgh, who was a man of great humour and eccentricity, was accustomed to cry out in a loud and somewhat peevish voice, when the door was left open by any of his pupils, "Claude ostium." On one occasion he was so much engaged looking at his papers, that he did not observe the carelessness of some one who came in, when an arch rogue in a corner imitated his tone and manner, and exclaimed, "Claude ostium." Instantaneously the professor's eye was on the offender, and in a voice of thunder, "Claude ostium" was his reply and reproof.

Patent Machine Paper of J. & T. Gilpin, Brandywine.

Clark & Raser, Printers.